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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Paraguay

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-fourth session from 18 to 29 January 2016. The review of Paraguay was held at the 5th meeting on 20 January 2016. The delegation of Paraguay was headed by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Óscar Cabello. At its 10th meeting, held on 22 January 2016, the Working Group adopted the report on Paraguay.

2. On 12 January 2016, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Paraguay: Algeria, Cuba and Saudi Arabia.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Paraguay:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/PRY/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/PRY/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/PRY/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Paraguay through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review. Additional questions raised during the dialogue by India, Montenegro and the United Kingdom are summarized in section I.B below.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the delegation noted that Paraguay had come to the second review convinced that dialogue and cooperation at the international level could contribute to improving the promotion and protection of human rights. Paraguay aimed to share its achievements and challenges regarding the implementation of the recommendations from the first review cycle in an open and transparent manner.

6. Paraguay had always sought to cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and had issued a standing, open invitation to the special procedures of the Council. During the past four years, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, as well as the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, had visited the country. Paraguay was up-to-date with all its reports to the treaty bodies and had recently updated its common core document.

7. Paraguay was currently a member of the Human Rights Council and sought to work in a responsible manner together with other countries. It had supported declarations and

resolutions that reflected human rights priorities and cooperation, especially through the exchange of good practices among countries, the United Nations system and civil society.

8. Paraguay had focused on making good use of its experience to strengthen the international human rights mechanisms, in particular in the area of follow-up to universal periodic review recommendations, through the development of the innovative and participative Recommendations Monitoring System. The system, which was the result of the experience of national institutions, had been developed with technical support and guidance from the Human Rights Adviser of OHCHR in the country. The system was built around thematic areas of work and facilitated the preparation of reports and the implementation of recommendations through national plans of action, and now formed the basis for the development of human rights indicators. In order to share that experience, Paraguay, together with Brazil, had sponsored a Council resolution on promoting international cooperation to support national human rights follow-up systems and processes. Paraguay had also created a bilateral cooperation programme to share its experience with other interested States.

9. The delegation reported on the progress it had made and the challenges it had faced in the implementation of recommendations since the previous review. Paraguay had been consolidating a culture of democracy and the integration of a human rights-based approach in public policies with some significant results in the areas of poverty reduction and improvement in social conditions favouring inclusion and addressing inequalities. Paraguay had also begun combating corruption.

10. With regard to the prevention of torture, Paraguay was the first country in the region to have created a national mechanism for the prevention of torture, in line with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. On the basis of the methodology developed by OHCHR, the judicial branch had also formulated indicators on the right to a fair trial. Other initiatives had included the development of a guide to harmonize State justice with indigenous justice, guidelines on access to justice by older persons and persons with disabilities, and principles on juvenile restorative justice. The Minister of Public Defence and the Public Prosecution Service had also been strengthened.

11. Paraguay reiterated the importance of the international human rights system, in particular the universal periodic review mechanism, and highlighted the valuable work of OHCHR in that regard. Paraguay remained open to receiving comments and suggestions that could enable it to continue improving the protection of human rights at the national level.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

12. During the interactive dialogue, 76 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report. All written statements of the delegations, to be checked against delivery on the United Nations Webcast archives,[1] are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council when available.[2]

13. Argentina noted with satisfaction the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan, the designation of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture, the

[1] http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/human-rights-council/universal-periodic-review/24th-upr/watch/paraguay-upr-adoption-24th-session-of-universal-periodic-review/4716532396001.

[2] www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/PYSession24.aspx.

development of the Recommendations Monitoring System and efforts to promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

14. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela highlighted progress made to combat poverty, address domestic violence, and improve access to basic and secondary education and health services.

15. Australia noted that further measures were required to protect land reform advocates from intimidation and violence, to investigate gender-based violence and to guarantee protection from all forms of discrimination.

16. Austria expressed concern at the high number of journalists, human rights defenders and lawyers who had been attacked or killed, and the high rates of child pregnancy and maternal mortality.

17. Azerbaijan commended Paraguay for its efforts to strengthen the human rights framework, protect children and persons with disabilities, reduce poverty and raise people's standard of living.

18. Belgium welcomed the designation of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture. It noted that in certain areas, such as the rights of the child and those of women and girls, there was room for progress.

19. Benin welcomed the adoption of laws and policies on forced disappearances, the upgrading the Secretariat for Women to a Ministry, and the National Health Policy.

20. The Plurinational State of Bolivia recognized the progress that had been made to improve human rights since the first review, specifically the narrowing of the socioeconomic gap and the implementation of the Recommendations Monitoring System.

21. Greece commended Paraguay for its acceptance of all the recommendations from the first review, the National Development Plan to 2030, the National Policy on Children and Adolescents and the abolition of the death penalty.

22. Regarding indigenous rights and land settlement, Canada was concerned that the process of expropriation approved by Congress in 2014 had not yet been implemented to comply with the rulings of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

23. Chad encouraged Paraguay to reinforce its normative and institutional framework with a view to improving enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights.

24. Chile highlighted the creation of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture and the adoption of several national laws and plans promoting the rights of women, children and people with disabilities.

25. Colombia highlighted the establishment of the Recommendations Monitoring System and reaffirmed its commitment to continue working with Paraguay to address trafficking in persons.

26. Costa Rica welcomed the establishment of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture and the Recommendations Monitoring System. However, it was concerned about cases of violence against and murders of journalists and human rights defenders.

27. Cuba recognized the efforts of Paraguay to eradicate poverty and uphold the economic, political, social and cultural rights of women living in rural areas with a view to their development and empowerment.

28. Djibouti acknowledged the progress made by Paraguay since the first review cycle to strengthen the legislative and institutional framework for the protection and promotion of human rights.

29. Ecuador highlighted the initiatives Paraguay had taken to promote social development, a human rights-based approach to poverty eradication and the National Development Plan to 2030.

30. Egypt noted with satisfaction the establishment of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture and the implementation of the Recommendations Monitoring System. Egypt urged Paraguay to increase its efforts to reduce poverty.

31. Ethiopia noted the domestication of international human rights instruments, and the introduction of human rights training in schools. It commended Paraguay for its commitment to poverty reduction.

32. France made a statement and recommendations.

33. Georgia encouraged Paraguay to allocate sufficient resources to the national mechanism for the prevention of torture. It expressed concern about the situation of human rights defenders and judicial and administrative proceedings against journalists, and urged the Government to conduct investigations into such cases.

34. Germany commended Paraguay for its engagement in the Human Rights Council. It appreciated the introduction of mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the country's international obligations.

35. Ghana was concerned about allegations of harassment and killings of journalists and human rights defenders. It encouraged Paraguay to investigate the allegations and bring the perpetrators to justice.

36. Brazil welcomed the improvements that had been made to the legal and institutional framework and the establishment of the Recommendations Monitoring System, which had inspired it.

37. Guatemala commended Paraguay for the reforms undertaken to prohibit the sale of children, child pornography, commercial sexual exploitation of children and trafficking in persons.

38. Haiti noted that Paraguay had accepted all the recommendations from the first review cycle and congratulated it on its efforts to combat the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

39. The Holy See recognized the efforts to improve communication between civil authorities and indigenous communities, reduce extreme poverty and address corruption and trafficking in persons.

40. Honduras commended Paraguay on its efforts to reduce poverty and recognized its contribution to promoting good practices with the creation and implementation of the Recommendations Monitoring System.

41. India noted that Paraguay was up-to-date with its submission of reports to the treaty bodies. India requested information on the operational aspects of the National Development Plan to 2030.

42. Indonesia commended Paraguay for strengthening the legislative framework and providing inclusive education. It noted the efforts that had been made to formulate the National Human Rights Action Plan.

43. The Islamic Republic of Iran was concerned about the absence of a policy on protecting the rights of indigenous peoples, and about the level of trafficking in persons.

44. Iraq commended Paraguay for its efforts to implement the recommendations from the first review cycle.

45. Israel commended Paraguay for having taken several measures, including the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan and of a protocol applicable to transgender persons who had been deprived of their liberty.

46. Italy appreciated the prioritization of measures to tackle extreme poverty and to uphold women's rights, as indicated by the creation of the Ministry for Women.

47. Kazakhstan welcomed the establishment of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture and of the Recommendations Monitoring System, which would facilitate efforts to follow up on recommendations made during the first review and recommendations made by treaty bodies and special procedures.

48. Kuwait welcomed measures to reduce poverty and combat human trafficking, the creation of the National Secretariat to Combat Corruption, and efforts to strengthen the rights of persons with disabilities.

49. Kyrgyzstan noted that Paraguay had made unprecedented steps to strengthen the legislative, institutional and policy mechanisms concerning human rights, and had issued a standing invitation to all the special procedure mandate holders.

50. The Lao People's Democratic Republic noted the commitment of Paraguay to international cooperation and the work of the Human Rights Council, and welcomed the measures it had taken on gender equality and poverty reduction.

51. Lebanon welcomed the efforts Paraguay had made to fight poverty and to recognize the rights of indigenous communities.

52. Libya commended Paraguay for its establishment of a national institution and a national commission on the rights of persons with disabilities. It welcomed the cooperation that had taken place on the development of the National Human Rights Action Plan.

53. Liechtenstein welcomed the ratification by Paraguay of the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court and the fact that it had begun the process of ratifying the Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression.

54. Malaysia commended Paraguay for its overall progress in the promotion and protection of human rights and encouraged it to implement the commitments it had outlined in its national report.

55. Mexico welcomed the project to combat bullying in schools and the initiatives being taken on transparency and the abolition of the death penalty.

56. Montenegro asked about progress towards better interministerial coordination and cooperation with civil society and measures to improve national legislation in line with recommendations to prevent violence against women, sexual and gender-based violence and to punish the perpetrators of such violence.

57. Morocco welcomed efforts to reduce poverty, the policy of institutional transparency in the judiciary and the designation of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture.

58. Namibia, taking note of the efforts of Paraguay to reduce poverty, enquired whether it had been able to reach its target of reducing extreme poverty to 9.4 per cent by 2015. Namibia asked Paraguay about any best practices it could share in that regard.

59. The Netherlands commended Paraguay for being an example in the field of international human rights mechanisms. It noted, however, that no specific steps seemed to have been taken to protect the safety and rights of human rights defenders.

60. Nicaragua underscored the efforts of Paraguay to care for children, the National Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, positive developments in education and access to education.

61. Norway was concerned about the high number of reports of threats, attacks, harassment and killings of human rights defenders. It commended Paraguay for establishing a national mechanism for the prevention of torture.

62. Pakistan commended Paraguay for its adoption of a number of laws and administrative reforms aiming at the promotion and protection of human rights.

63. Panama noted the strengthening by Paraguay of its normative and institutional framework to prevent torture, eradicate poverty and guarantee the rights to education and health.

64. Peru underscored the implementation by Paraguay of the Recommendations Monitoring System to monitor follow-up to the recommendations from the first review cycle and its commitment to recover citizens' historical memory.

65. The Philippines welcomed the abolition of the death penalty in Paraguay and commended its efforts to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples.

66. Poland noted with appreciation the changes made by Paraguay to its constitutional and legislative framework and the establishment of a universal, accessible health-care service.

67. Portugal noted with concern that no Ombudsman had been appointed in Paraguay since 2008 and that the A status accreditation of the Ombudsman's Office had been suspended.

68. The Republic of Korea welcomed the National Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the National Strategy for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour and for the Protection of Adolescent Workers.

69. The Republic of Moldova shared the concerns of the treaty bodies about widespread pretrial detention in Paraguay, especially for children between the ages of 16 and 18.

70. Singapore welcomed the commitment of Paraguay to prioritizing poverty eradication and its policy to promote equal rights and opportunities for men and women.

71. Slovakia encouraged Paraguay to recognize the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances to consider individual communications under the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. While welcoming the establishment of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture, Slovakia noted that there was insufficient investigation into allegations of torture and that perpetrators of torture where not held sufficiently accountable.

72. Slovenia shared concerns about the high rate of teenage pregnancy and the high maternal mortality rate. It echoed the call that had been made by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to investigate all attacks on journalists and media workers.

73. South Africa was concerned that, despite the commitments Paraguay had made to do so, it had yet to adopt an anti-discrimination law that was in line with international human rights standards.

74. Spain recognized the efforts Paraguay had made in the implementation of recommendations, as demonstrated by the recent visits of special procedure mandate holders and the creation of the Recommendations Monitoring System.

75. Sweden expressed concern about gender-based and sexual violence. It noted recent reports indicating that discrimination was widespread and that little effort was made to address human rights violations against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

76. Switzerland noted the constructive cooperation of Paraguay with OHCHR, special procedures and other international organizations. It remained concerned at the criminalization of abortion in the case of rape or incest.

77. Tajikistan noted the consistent approach of Paraguay to the promotion and protection of human rights and its willingness to cooperate with international mechanisms and procedures.

78. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was concerned about the safety of journalists, persistent stereotypes of the role of women in society, and domestic violence. It requested additional information on the steps Paraguay planned to take in order to adopt the anti-discrimination law.

79. Turkey took note of the commitment to complete the process of appointing an Ombudsman. It called on Paraguay to prioritize the adoption of a law to combat all forms of discrimination.

80. Ukraine acknowledged the involvement of civil society organizations in the implementation of recommendations and encouraged Paraguay to provide resources for the participation of indigenous communities.

81. While welcoming efforts by the legislature to address discrimination, the United Kingdom urged Paraguay to adopt an anti-discrimination law. The United Kingdom requested additional information on human rights training provided to police and military personnel.

82. The United States of America remained concerned by corruption in the public and judicial sectors, and the persistence of gender-based violence and violence against journalists and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

83. Uruguay highlighted the establishment of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture and the online platform to monitor the implementation of the recommendations. It noted progress in terms of poverty reduction and increased transparency in governance.

84. Uzbekistan welcomed progress made in the implementation of recommendations, the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan, the establishment of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture, the ratification of human rights instruments and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.

85. Armenia commended Paraguay for its commitment to promoting truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-repetition, including through the recognition of past crimes and their condemnation. It noted progress in reducing poverty.

86. Algeria appreciated efforts to address trafficking in persons, eliminate bullying in public and private schools, combat acts of torture and forced disappearances, and reinforce the rights of indigenous peoples.

87. Angola appreciated the setting up of a system to monitor the implementation of recommendations. It encouraged Paraguay to further promote the civil and political rights of women.

88. The Dominican Republic underlined the implementation of various national action plans and urged Paraguay to continue working on the bill for the establishment of a ministry of justice and human rights.

89. Paraguay thanked the delegations for the interest they had shown, their participation in the dialogue and their support for the progress Paraguay had achieved since the previous review, as reflected in the comments and recommendations they had made.

90. In response to comments and questions raised regarding efforts to combat poverty and social investment, the Chief of Cabinet of the Technical Planning Secretariat highlighted Paraguay's commitment to ensuring equal opportunities. He provided information on programmes on land use planning and sustainable environment. The main aim of the national poverty reduction programme was to increase the income of vulnerable persons and families and improve their access to social services. The level of extreme poverty had been reduced from 8 per cent in 2006 to 2 per cent in 2013. The proportion of the population with access to safe drinking water had risen from 43 per cent in 1997 to 81 per cent in 2014.

91. The Minister for Social Action referred to previous recommendations concerning families, persons with disabilities, cash transfer programmes and consultations with and prior and informed consent of indigenous people. The Tekoporã Programme, a broad social protection programme that had obtained the ISO 9001 quality management systems standard in 2014, covered 17 departments and 80 per cent of municipalities. One specific component of the programme, which had been developed with the support of OHCHR in Paraguay, aimed to promote the involvement of indigenous people through a protocol for free, prior and informed consent.

92. The Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security noted that the Ministry had been created in 2013 to focus on the protection of workers, work and labour. It had conducted activities that sought to ensure the right to decent work and working conditions. Responding to comments made by Colombia, he noted that Paraguay had recently promulgated the law on domestic workers, which had raised the minimum wage and sought to ensure social protection. Regarding the issue of child labour, raised by Belgium, Chile and Cuba, he noted that the Code on Children and Adolescents prohibited work for children under 14 years of age. The Ministry had made the fight against child labour a priority and was working to eradicate the worst forms of child labour in the forthcoming years. The National Commission for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour was also being strengthened. Paraguay had been successful in eradicating child labour in the cotton production sector and had adopted legislation on the protection of working mothers, in particular while they were breastfeeding.

93. The Minister for the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities reported on efforts to ensure that protection of the human rights of persons with disabilities was a cross-cutting issue in all public policies and services. In 2015, the National Secretariat for the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SENADIS) had been upgraded to the level of Ministry. The National Commission on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CONADIS), in which persons with disabilities and civil society participated fully in decision-making, had also been set up. Paraguay had developed a National Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with the support of OHCHR. Paraguay was currently developing indicators to monitor implementation of the Plan and assess its impact. The Action Plan had given visibility to persons with disabilities. Through the Plan, Paraguay would also ensure inclusive education and differentiated basic provision for persons with disabilities. A handbook on accessibility for persons with disabilities was being developed for all schools. In addition, Paraguay had established a network of State communication officials to promote the use of inclusive language and a rights-based approach in their work. The progress achieved was the result of partnership between the State and civil society, with support from international cooperation.

94. The Minister for Children and Adolescents, referring to comments concerning violence against children and adolescents, noted that the national commission to prevent

and comprehensively address violence affecting children and adolescents had been established in 2013 in follow-up to the United Nations Study on Violence against Children. It was composed of State institutions and civil society organizations that worked together to prevent violence against children and to protect and care for children who were victims of violence. A bill was being drafted to protect children from all forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, including corporal punishment, and to foster good practices when it came to bringing up children. There was a toll-free 24-hour helpline available to children through which they could make complaints and receive guidance. Legislative proposals had been made to amend the criminal framework concerning cases of sexual abuse. Paraguay had legislation in place on sex tourism, which aimed to prevent all forms of trafficking in persons, whether they took place within or outside the country, and to punish the perpetrators. Awareness-raising campaigns had been rolled out targeting State officials and citizens, particularly in boarder and touristic areas. Comprehensive programmes to provide care for victims of trafficking, including shelters, had also been established. In 2015, the legal age at which children could engage in domestic work had been raised to 18 years and legislation had codified domestic child labour as dangerous. The sale of children was criminalized and discussions were currently being held in Congress to amend legislation concerning adoption.

95. The Director General of Educational Planning at the Ministry of Education and Culture reported on the increase in funding for quality education and research since 2012. A priority area for action had been early childhood education and quality support services for children from the age of 3, a new modality of informal education, particularly in rural areas. In 2014, the rate of enrolment in primary education had reached 98 per cent. The enrolment rate for children aged between 15 and 17, however, remained a challenge. Education strategies contributed to improving children's access to schools through investment in textbooks and the provision of educational tools for students. Paraguay was investing in technical training and diversifying educational and vocational training programmes and support. In addition, a national programme that was being implemented recognized the progressive autonomy of boys and girls, especially in the area of sexual and reproductive health education.

96. The head of the Human Rights Unit in the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare welcomed the recommendations concerning the right to health, particularly those from Belgium, Colombia, Kazakhstan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Turkey and the United Kingdom. Addressing inequalities required a strong and systematic response; the plans and programmes that had been prepared during recent years focused on a common vision and a strategic approach based on the national reality. Paraguay was implementing the National Sexual and Reproductive Health Plan for 2014 to 2018, which met the basic needs of the population. It took a human rights-based approach and focused on seven key areas that were part of the health-care policy, emphasizing access, quality and equitable health. Information was also provided on other areas, such as neonatal health-care plans, prevention and monitoring of sexually transmitted diseases, prevention, detection and treatment of breast cancer, prevention of domestic and gender-based violence and care for persons affected by such violence and efforts to reduce the number of early pregnancies and the prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases among young people.

97. The Adviser to the Human Rights Commission of the Chamber of Deputies reported on the process for the selection of a new Ombudsman and a Deputy Ombudsman, which would take place in 2016. The Chamber was currently reviewing two proposals that both aimed to ensure the full exercise of all rights by the population on an equal basis without discrimination, in line with the international human rights standards that Paraguay had ratified. In 2016, the Chamber would also consider draft legislation to ensure comprehensive protection of women from all forms of violence. A bill was currently being examined concerning the legal framework regulating the use of the Internet. Efforts were

currently under way to draft legislation on freedom of expression and protection of journalists. Paraguay had requested cooperation in that regard from the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Organization of American States.

98. In response to comments made by several delegations on the issue of an institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights, the Director General for Human Rights of the Ministry of Justice reported on several initiatives, such as the National Human Rights Action Plan and the drafting of a bill on the creation of the ministry of justice and human rights. The definition of torture and the definition of enforced disappearance in domestic legislation had both been brought into line with international human rights standards. A national team had been set up to search for and identify persons who had disappeared between 1954 and 1989. Since May 2013, research and investigations had been carried out into possible individual and mass graves. To date, a total of 34 remains of disappeared persons had been exhumed and a database of blood samples of family members had been created. Paraguay had been working on drafting a prison reform plan with a focus on social reintegration.

99. The Human Rights Director of the Supreme Court of Justice provided a brief update on the Marina Cue case. Paraguay had organized a symposium on corruption, and the judiciary had developed quantitative and qualitative indicators on access to justice within the framework of the implementation of the Brasilia Regulations Regarding Access to Justice for Vulnerable People. Turning to the issue of preventive detention, Paraguay reported on current initiatives for a reform of the penal system. In 2015, the Supreme Court had adopted principles on restorative justice in accordance with the Lima Declaration on Restorative Juvenile Justice. In addition, consultations were currently under way in an effort to harmonize the indigenous justice system with the ordinary justice system.

100. A representative of the National Institute of Indigenous Affairs thanked participants for the concern expressed by several delegations regarding the situation of the indigenous communities and the development of public policies for indigenous peoples in Paraguay. A bill was currently under consideration to upgrade the Institute to the level of Ministry. Efforts were also being made to address concerns about the health of indigenous peoples and to ensure that they had access to more participatory and inclusive education. Regarding land issues and in follow-up to recommendations from the previous universal periodic review, a system had been created for the registration of land titles that facilitated the identification of potential duplicity. In 2015, the National Council for Indigenous Education had been created. Information was also provided on the availability of community radios, prior consultations and the involvement of indigenous peoples in decision-making.

101. In conclusion, the head of the delegation thanked all the participating States for their interest in Paraguay.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

102. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Paraguay and enjoy the support of Paraguay:**

102.1 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Uruguay); Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Djibouti) (France) (Ghana) (Montenegro) (Portugal);**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

102.2 **Take steps to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Slovakia); Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Portugal) (Montenegro);**

102.3 **Encourage ratification of the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Iraq); Consider the recommendation of UNESCO to ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Nicaragua); Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (South Africa) (Uzbekistan) (Portugal) (Ghana) (Honduras);**

102.4 **Make the declaration provided for in article 14 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (South Africa);**

102.5 **Conclude the process of ratifying the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute swiftly with a view to contributing to the activation of the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court over the crime of aggression in 2017 (Liechtenstein);**

102.6 **Pass legislation implementing the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court into domestic law (Djibouti);**

102.7 **Encourage the adoption in the short term of a bill on the implementation of the Rome Statute (Guatemala);**

102.8 **Deepen its commitment with the International Criminal Court through the adaptation of its national legislation to the Rome Statute (Peru);**

102.9 **Review its criminal legislation in order to incorporate a definition of torture in accordance with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Honduras);**

102.10 **Continue working on harmonizing its national policies and laws related to children in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Protocols thereto to which it is a party (Nicaragua);**

102.11 **Promote laws on the rights of children and adolescents especially in the area of health (Egypt);**

102.12 **Implement the National System for Comprehensive Protection and Advancement of Children and Adolescents, with attention to human trafficking and sexual and reproductive health. Pass legislation to protect the rights of unregistered children and remove obstacles to child registration (Canada);**

102.13 **Improve the domestic legislation regarding working conditions, especially for women and young people (Holy See);**

102.14 **Strengthen its efforts in establishing the National Human Rights Institution, in line with the Paris Principles and with full participation of the civil society (Indonesia); Expedite staffing of the Ombudsman office and strengthen it by allocating the necessary budget (Ethiopia);**

102.15 **Take all necessary measures to ensure the full realization of the mandate of the Ombudsman's Office (France);**

102.16 **Strengthen the capacities of the Ombudsman's Office while making it accessible to the citizens (Haiti);**

102.17 **Allocate sufficient financial and human resources to national human rights institutions (Kyrgyzstan);**

102.18 Take all necessary measures in order to strengthen the role and operation of the Ombudsman's Office (Namibia);

102.19 Speed up the process to appoint a new Ombudsman (Israel);

102.20 Appoint a new Ombudsman without further delay, after the mandate of the present incumbent expired in 2008, while ensuring that the institution complies fully with the Paris Principles (Germany);

102.21 Finalize at its earliest the process of appointment of the Ombudsman and ensure that the institution fully complies with the Paris Principles (Kazakhstan);

102.22 Appoint an Ombudsman and ensure that the institution complies fully with the Paris Principles (Portugal) (South Africa);

102.23 Complete as soon as possible the necessary internal process to appoint the new Ombudsman (Spain);

102.24 Continue the selection process for a new Ombudsman, with a view to its appointment at the earliest possible, in line with the constitutional requirements and the Paris Principles (Uruguay);

102.25 Expedite a process related to the establishment of the national secretariat for indigenous peoples (Georgia);

102.26 Strengthen the National Institute for Indigenous Affairs (El Instituto Paraguayo del Indígena, INDI) at the legislative, structural and functional levels (Haiti);

102.27 Conclude the process to create the National Secretariat for Indigenous Peoples (Peru);

102.28 Redouble its efforts in formulating the National Human Rights Action Plan (Indonesia);

102.29 Continue further improvement of the protection and promotion of human rights in the country (Azerbaijan);

102.30 While recognizing the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan, and within the context of its implementation, implement awareness-raising campaigns and promote respect of human rights (Spain);

102.31 Implement public policies permitting gender equality in the political and economic life of the country (Chile);

102.32 Further promote the rights of women, children and indigenous peoples (Greece);

102.33 Further develop policies to ensure full enjoyment of rights and equality to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Israel);

102.34 Maintain efforts to implement the information system for the follow up of international human rights recommendations (Ecuador);

102.35 Engage a civil society in the follow-up implementation process of the universal periodic review recommendations (Poland);

102.36 Accord priority to passing draft anti-discrimination legislation, tabled in Congress in November 2015, and reviews existing laws to ensure consistency with the draft legislation's objectives (Australia);

102.37 **Ensure the adoption and implementation of an anti-discrimination law, cohering to international human rights standards (Greece);**

102.38 **Move towards the adoption of a comprehensive law against all forms of discrimination, including discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, that punishes and prohibits all forms of discrimination in public and private settings (Chile);**

102.39 **Foster the presentation of a new bill against all forms of discrimination (Cuba);**

102.40 **Adopt and implement comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation in line with international human rights standards (Slovenia);**

102.41 **Encourage the adoption and implementation of legislation to combat all forms of discrimination, in compliance with international human rights standards and in line with Paraguay's commitments (Guatemala);**

102.42 **Present to the Parliament and support the approval, as soon as possible, of a new comprehensive draft bill against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and all related forms of intolerance (Brazil);**

102.43 **Adopt the necessary legislative and policy measures to combat any form of discrimination, including by guaranteeing access to justice and recognizing the right to due reparation for victims (Honduras);**

102.44 **Adopt a law prohibiting all forms of discrimination against indigenous communities and guarantee access to comprehensive quality education for Guarani speakers (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

102.45 **Consider taking up an anti-discrimination bill in dialogue with State and non-State actors, which would guarantee basic safeguards of non-discrimination, prevention and punishment of all forms of discrimination against all human beings, in line with the main standards of the international human rights instruments to which Paraguay is a party (Uruguay);**

102.46 **Introduce a law explicitly prohibiting corporal punishment of children in all settings (Poland);**

102.47 **Adopt legislation clearly prohibiting all corporal punishment of children in all settings (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

102.48 **Continue to promote women empowerment (Pakistan);**

102.49 **Eliminate all forms of inequality between men and women (Egypt);**

102.50 **Continue to design and implement policies that incorporate gender perspectives into public policies and promote the empowerment and advancement of women living in rural areas (Singapore);**

102.51 **Approve a comprehensive law for the promotion of gender equality which would include, among other issues, awareness on issues such as gender violence, and the freedom of sexual orientation (Spain);**

102.52 **Adopt a law prohibiting all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (South Africa);**

102.53 **Adopt a law against all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Sweden);**

102.54 **Enact legislation to prohibit discrimination, including based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Canada);**

102.55 Adopt a law to fight against discrimination, to prevent and punish discrimination in all its forms including discrimination on sexual orientation and gender identity (Argentina);

102.56 Pass legislation prohibiting discrimination, including comprehensive prohibitions against discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

102.57 Review all type of provisions that could lead to the discrimination of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, as well as review labour provisions which may affect domestic workers (Colombia);

102.58 Strengthen the fight against all forms of discrimination including discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (France);

102.59 Ensure the issuance of birth certificates to all children born on its territory, regardless of the status of their parents (Poland);

102.60 Further improve its birth registration system and ensure the issuance of birth certificates to all children born on its territory (Turkey);

102.61 Increase efforts to ensure that all children born in Paraguay can have their birth registered (Mexico);

102.62 Ensure that all State surveillance activities are in line with international human rights law and do not infringe on citizen's fundamental rights and freedoms (Liechtenstein);

102.63 Take the necessary measures to ensure that the operations of intelligence agencies are monitored by an independent oversight mechanism to ensure transparency and accountability (Liechtenstein);

102.64 Continue working in the improvement of prison conditions (Spain);

102.65 Continue to adopt measures to improve the situation in the penitentiary system of the country in line with international standards (Uzbekistan);

102.66 Increase resources to address gender-based violence (Australia);

102.67 Prevent all forms of violence against women and girls, particularly sexual abuse and domestic violence, including by adopting a law to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women (Austria);

102.68 Ensure that legislation to prevent and eradicate violence against women is passed (Belgium);

102.69 Ensure the adoption of a comprehensive law on violence against women (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

102.70 Pass legislation to prevent and criminalize all forms of violence against women, and provide law enforcement with training and education to ensure its effective implementation (Canada);

102.71 Implement legislation against violence and the discrimination against women in a comprehensive way and with a gender perspective (Costa Rica);

102.72 Promote the approval of the comprehensive law on violence against women (Cuba);

102.73 **Strengthen and accelerate legislative and educational actions to prevent violence against women and girls, especially domestic violence (Djibouti);**

102.74 **Take all necessary measures to promote women's rights and fight against domestic violence (France);**

102.75 **Promote legislation eradicating violence against women and against discrimination based on religious beliefs (Israel);**

102.76 **Strengthen efforts to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence and sexual abuse, and effectively implement the legislation recently adopted in this field (Italy);**

102.77 **Review existing legislation and programs to prevent and eradicate violence and sexual exploitation against children and adolescents, to ensure they meet international best practices (Italy);**

102.78 **Further increase its efforts to effectively combat all forms of violence against women (Kazakhstan);**

102.79 **Strengthen the provisions for the protection of women, notably through the adoption of the draft law aiming at preventing violence against women (Morocco);**

102.80 **Take the necessary steps, including legislative measures, to prevent and eradicate violence against women (Namibia);**

102.81 **Take additional measures, including providing resources and assistance, access to courts and appropriate punishment for violations, to tackle sexual and intimate partner violence and exploitation of women and girls (Netherlands);**

102.82 **Prevent discrimination and violence against vulnerable and marginalized groups (Panama);**

102.83 **Make further efforts to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls, in particular sexual abuse and domestic violence, by adopting a comprehensive law to prevent violence against women as well as provide assistance and recovery for victims (Republic of Korea);**

102.84 **Consider adopting new specific legislation to strengthen measures aimed at prosecuting offenders and increasing support to victims of sexual violence and abuse and promote awareness raising-campaigns and educational programs, notably in schools (Italy);**

102.85 **Adopt a national action plan to combat gender-based and sexual violence, which includes raising general awareness through education and training, developing official and credible statistics and ensuring access to justice for victims (Sweden);**

102.86 **Consider adopting a law to prevent, punish and eradicate the violence against women (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);**

102.87 **Take further measures and strengthen its legislation to prevent and punish all violence against women and girls, particularly sexual abuse and domestic violence (Turkey);**

102.88 **Continue implementing specific measures to prevent all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, ill-treatment and sexual**

abuse, ensuring that there are complaints channels, facilitating access to justice and guaranteeing the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators (Uruguay);

102.89 **Continue the work on inter-family violence and the implementation of public policies for rural women (Dominican Republic);**

102.90 **Consider specific measures for the protection of the rights of children and adolescents, notably through the objectives defined within the national strategy for the prevention and elimination of child labour (Angola);**

102.91 **Incorporate child sex tourism explicitly as a criminal offence in order to bring national legislation in conformity with the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Belgium);**

102.92 **Strengthen the prevention, detection and response to cases of exploitation, sexual abuses and other forms of violence against children (Panama);**

102.93 **Move towards the adoption of a law that prohibits the work of children below the age of 14, as well as the worst forms of child labour and domestic child labour (Chile);**

102.94 **Continue conducting actions with a view to eradicating child labour in the country (Cuba);**

102.95 **Raise the minimum age for domestic work to 18 years of age, and strongly reconsider increasing the minimum wage in this sector (Haiti);**

102.96 **Eradicate the practice of *criadazgo* and other forms of child labor (Panama);**

102.97 **Adopt a comprehensive care policy to protect children living on the streets (Mexico);**

102.98 **Pursue measures for the protection of children, in particular children living in the streets and domestic worker children (Algeria);**

102.99 **Adopt the National Plan to Prevent, Combat and Care for the victims of trafficking (Greece);**

102.100 **Continue its efforts to combat trafficking in human beings (Tajikistan);**

102.101 **Put an end to trafficking in persons, particularly for purposes of sexual exploitation or child labour (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

102.102 **Effectively combat human trafficking, in particular sexual exploitation and forced labour (Malaysia);**

102.103 **Provide assistance, reintegration programs and skills training for victims of human trafficking to allow their reintegration into society (Malaysia);**

102.104 **Provide adequate human resources and budget to implement its national anti-trafficking in persons policies and programs (Philippines);**

102.105 **Continue working towards the modernization of justice so as to guarantee its independence and impartiality, in particular with regard to vulnerable groups, such as indigenous people and persons with disabilities (Spain);**

102.106 **Enhance public accountability for the judiciary by limiting political interference, increasing transparency in judicial processes, and ensuring all judicial staff hiring is merit-based (United States of America);**

102.107 **Facilitate access to the Judiciary, especially for indigenous persons ensuring that they are represented in public affairs (Egypt);**

102.108 **Develop initiatives aimed at ensuring access to the judiciary by indigenous persons (Mexico);**

102.109 **Adopt the necessary measures to increase the judicial control over the duration of pre-trial detention (Slovakia);**

102.110 **Investigate allegations of torture and ill-treatment against persons in places of detention and bring those responsible to justice (Uzbekistan);**

102.111 **Establish an effective investigation mechanism concerning allegations of torture and ill-treatment that would ensure the conviction of perpetrators (Turkey);**

102.112 **In the context of detention, strengthen existing police oversight mechanisms and provide victims of torture and ill-treatment with compensation (Germany);**

102.113 **Double efforts in combatting corruption through improving the capacity of the National Secretariat to Combat Corruption (Malaysia);**

102.114 **Step up efforts to eliminate corruption by police officers and prosecutors, and to adopt specific legal provisions establishing a judicial procedure for ensuring investigation of the cases related to enforced disappearance and arbitrary detention, as well as to punish perpetrators and provide assistance and recovery for victims (Republic of Korea);**

102.115 **Combat impunity, prosecute perpetrators and ensure victims' access to effective remedies in case of journalists, human rights defenders and lawyers who become victims of human rights violations and abuses (Austria);**

102.116 **Combat impunity of all attacks against human rights defenders, including by investigating the murders of 17 journalists since 1991. Establish a special commission in the Public Prosecutor's Office to bring those responsible to justice (Canada);**

102.117 **Combat impunity by ensuring prompt, thorough and transparent investigation of all violations against, and killing of Human Rights Defenders, the prosecution of perpetrators and access to effective remedies for victims (Norway);**

102.118 **Investigate and prosecute allegations of abusive practices by security and law enforcement forces targeted at indigenous people (Australia);**

102.119 **Take effective measures to thoroughly investigate all allegations of ill-treatment of detainees, of abuse of force by police and military forces and of attacks against journalists and human rights defenders, so to ensure that all those responsible are brought to justice (Italy);**

102.120 **Ensure implementation of impartial and independent investigations and criminal proceedings in accordance with existing law, including for cases as the Marina Cué events in Curuguaty of June 2012 in order to clarify allegations and bring perpetrators to justice (Germany);**

102.121 **Strengthen its specialized Juvenile Justice system, to promote alternative measures to deprivation of liberty, and continue improving the social services available to adolescents deprived of their liberty (Republic of Moldova);**

102.122 **Continue efforts for the promotion of truth, justice and reparation and guaranties of non-repetition related to crimes of the past (Armenia);**

102.123 **Abolish discrimination based on religion or beliefs (Lebanon);**

102.124 **Enhance laws that encourage freedom of expression (Lebanon);**

102.125 **Further protect the freedom of expression and prosecute crimes against journalists as a matter of priority (Greece);**

102.126 **Create a mechanism to give visibility and value the work of human rights defenders and, develop and implement measures to protect human rights defenders should they be exposed to any risk or threat associated with the free exercise of their activities (Brazil);**

102.127 **Adopt appropriate measures to disseminate widely and ensure full observance of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders (Norway);**

102.128 **Adopt legal and policy measures for the protection of human rights defenders (Honduras);**

102.129 **Acknowledge the legitimate role of human rights defenders and create and maintain a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders and journalists to carry out their legitimate work without threat of violence or reprisals (Norway);**

102.130 **Ensure the protection of human rights defenders in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders (Sweden);**

102.131 **Implement measures to protect journalists and human rights defenders, as well as effective policies to guarantee freedom of expression in Paraguay (Costa Rica);**

102.132 **Take steps to reduce the harassment, intimidation and death threats against defenders of human rights, and to publicly recognize the legitimacy and importance of the role of these defenders (Netherlands);**

102.133 **Adopt measures to guarantee the right to life, safety of human rights defenders and journalists, including for those defending indigenous communities from land grabbing (Norway);**

102.134 **Take the necessary measures to guarantee the human rights of human rights defenders and to promote and protect the space of the civil society (Switzerland);**

102.135 **Establish greater protections for journalists under threat and ensure prompt investigations of threats, harassment, and crimes against journalists (United States of America);**

102.136 **Continue its efforts to facilitate a greater participation and representation of women and indigenous people in public offices (Israel);**

102.137 **Further promote gender equality and involvement of women in politics and public services (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

102.138 **Give special attention to families as the foundation of the well-being of the country (Egypt);**

102.139 Increase investment in social welfare programs (Haiti);

102.140 Take further steps to strengthen its social protection programs, in favour of the most vulnerable sectors of the population (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

102.141 Support the implementation of domestic measures to ensure the protection of socially vulnerable groups of the population, including children (Tajikistan);

102.142 Continue strengthening all human rights, particularly in the areas of eradicating poverty, promoting and protecting the rights of children and adolescents, and fighting against human trafficking (Kuwait);

102.143 Persevere in including the needs of vulnerable groups in efforts to reduce poverty, particularly of persons with disabilities (Colombia);

102.144 Elaborate and implement an effective strategy to fight child poverty (Kyrgyzstan);

102.145 Continue efforts to combat poverty and provide assistance to families with limited income (Libya);

102.146 Pursue measures to eradicate poverty through the implementation of comprehensive public policies with a human rights-based approach (Ecuador);

102.147 Continue efforts towards improving literacy and reducing poverty through education and skills enhancement programs under the National Development Plan to 2030 (Malaysia);

102.148 Continue to implement National Health Policy 2015 (Pakistan);

102.149 Make every possible effort to guarantee universal access to healthcare through the National Health Policy (Holy See);

102.150 Continue the work on policies for the universal access to health, including the Health System for Indigenous Peoples (Dominican Republic);

102.151 Take effective measures to reduce the high maternal mortality rate (Kazakhstan);

102.152 Reduce the high rate of maternal mortality (Panama);

102.153 Deepen measures which are considered as necessary to reduce maternal mortality rates and to prevent teenage pregnancy (Colombia);

102.154 Ensure adequate access to information on sexual and reproductive rights for women and girls (Belgium);

102.155 Continue the promotion of sexual and reproductive rights of women and eliminate discriminatory practices, in conformity with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Mexico);

102.156 Address deficiencies of the legal and policy system regarding the issue of pregnant children for better protecting young girls, as some of them had been forced to continue high-risk pregnancies with long-lasting impact on their physical and mental health (Germany);

102.157 Undertake measures to prevent high incidences of early pregnancy, including comprehensive sexuality education in schools and access to services in

support of sexual health and reproductive rights (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

102.158 **Consider introducing civic and human rights education in primary and secondary school curricula (Ethiopia);**

102.159 **Continue efforts aimed at ensuring the availability and accessibility of the education system to all children and improvement of school's infrastructure (Georgia);**

102.160 **Continue its efforts to improve the quality of the education system and to expand access to education for all children and adolescents, in particular for those belonging to indigenous peoples (Holy See);**

102.161 **Take additional measures for the full enjoyment of the right to education by children (Kyrgyzstan);**

102.162 **Ensure that vulnerable children and adolescents in rural communities have access to quality education and health care services (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

102.163 **Further develop measures to ensure that an inclusive education system be available and accessible to all children, including those with disabilities and improve the quality and infrastructure of schools (Republic of Korea);**

102.164 **Strengthen measures with a view to guaranteeing full access to education for persons with disabilities (Argentina);**

102.165 **Strengthen access to the national education system for all children and adolescents with disabilities, ensuring an inclusive education (Chile);**

102.166 **Reinforce the schooling of persons with disabilities (Algeria);**

102.167 **Create an independent mechanism to protect persons with disabilities (Egypt);**

102.168 **Encourage the efforts taken for the creation of an independent mechanism for the monitoring of the application of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Morocco);**

102.169 **Establish an independent mechanism for the monitoring of the situation of persons with disabilities (Turkey);**

102.170 **Review the provisions restricting the voting rights of persons with disabilities (India);**

102.171 **Continue working for the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, peasants and other persons working in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

102.172 **Formulate a comprehensive policy protecting the rights of indigenous peoples (India);**

102.173 **Encourage enacting legislation that protects and promotes the rights of the indigenous peoples (Iraq);**

102.174 **Continue to take effective measures for the protection of indigenous peoples' rights (Armenia);**

102.175 **Pass legislation that recognizes the rights of indigenous communities to express their opinion and to consultations (Lebanon);**

102.176 **Step up efforts in formulating protocols to implement the indigenous peoples' right to free, prior and informed consent (Philippines);**

102.177 **Put in place a legal mechanism that enables indigenous communities from protecting and claiming their lands (Lebanon);**

102.178 **Address extant indigenous land claims, and ensure an end to discrimination against rural and indigenous communities (Australia);**

102.179 **Implement the rulings of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights regarding indigenous land claims by the Yakye Axa and Sawhoyamaxa Indigenous communities promptly and effectively (Canada);**

102.180 **Take measures to enforce the Inter-American Court sentences on the rights of indigenous peoples (Costa Rica);**

102.181 **Develop a comprehensive and forgery-proof land registry to enable indigenous communities to hold legal titles to their ancestral land, as previously recommended (Germany);**

102.182 **Protect the rights of the indigenous communities in terms of exploiting and using their lands (Lebanon);**

102.183 **Implement legislation that codifies the protection guaranteed in the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons in national legislation (Portugal);**

102.184 **Implement a statelessness status determination procedure to ensure the protection of stateless persons who are not refugees (Portugal);**

102.185 **Continue to take steps to ensure the full and effective implementation of its National Development Plan to 2030 to combat poverty, particularly in rural areas (Singapore);**

102.186 **Ensure the implementation of environmental standards to protect the environment (Egypt).**

103. **Paraguay considers that the recommendations 102.2, 102.5-102.9, 102.11, 102.12, 102.14-102.18, 102.20-102.27, 102.30-102.33, 102.35-102.47, 102.49, 102.51-102.61, 102.66-102.75, 102.77-102.87, 102.90-102.93, 102.95-102.101, 102.103, 102.104, 102.1106-102.111, 102.113-102.115, 102.118-102.121, 102.123-102.125, 102.129, 102.131, 102.133, 102.135, 102.137-102.141, 102.143, 102.144, 102.146, 102.149, 102.151-102.153, 102.155-102.158, 102.161-102.164, 102.166-102.170, 102.172, 102.173, 102.175, 102.176, 102.178-102.184 and 102.186 above are already implemented or in the process of implementation.**

104. **The following recommendation will be examined by Paraguay, which will provide a response in due time, but no later than the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council, in June 2016:**

104.1 **Convene an independent commission to investigate all credible allegations of human rights violations related to the 2012 law enforcement action at Marina Cue (United States of America).**

105. **The recommendations below did not enjoy the support of Paraguay and would thus be noted:**

105.1 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Ghana);**

105.2 **Consider withdrawing its reservation to articles 76 and 77 of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines);**

105.3 **Reform its punitive anti-abortion laws (Australia);**

105.4 **Repeal legislation criminalizing women and girls for having an abortion, as well as healthcare providers performing such services, and take measures to allow legal and safe abortions at least in cases of rape or incest, in cases where the life or health of the mother is at risk, or where the foetus is diagnosed with grave health deficiencies (Austria);**

105.5 **Repeal legislation criminalizing abortion and ensure access to legal and safe abortion for victims of rape and incest, in cases where the life or health of a woman is at risk or when the foetus is not viable (Slovenia);**

105.6 **Establish and effectively apply the legal provisions authorizing abortion, in cases when pregnancies are due to rape or incest, or when it is established that the foetus is not viable, or when the life or the health of the mothers is at risk (Switzerland).**

106. **Concerning recommendation 105.1 put forward by Ghana, Paraguay informs that it is a State party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. It has also signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.**

107. **Concerning recommendation 105.2 put forward by the Philippines, Paraguay informs that it has not made any reservations to articles 76 and 77 of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.**

108. **Concerning recommendations 105.3, 105.4, 105.5 and 105.6 put forward by Australia, Austria, Slovenia and Switzerland, Paraguay considers that these are not in accordance with the National Constitution (art. 4), the commitments made by Paraguay when ratifying the American Convention on Human Rights (art. 4) and the national legislation.**

109. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Paraguay was headed by H.E. Ambassador Óscar Cabello Sarubbi, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and composed of the following members:

- S.E. Guillermo Sosa, Ministro de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social
- S.E. Héctor Cárdenas, Ministro Secretario Ejecutivo – Secretaría de Acción Social
- S.E. Rocío Florentín, Ministra Secretaria Ejecutiva – Secretaría Nacional por los Derechos Humanos de las Personas con Discapacidad
- S.E. Carlos Zárate, Ministro Secretario Ejecutivo – Secretaría Nacional de la Niñez y la Adolescencia
- S.E Embajador Juan Esteban Aguirre, Representante Permanente del Paraguay ante las Naciones Unidas y Organismos Especializados
- Ministro Juan Miguel González Bibolini, Director General de Derechos Humanos del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
- Embajador Carlos Fleitas, Jefe de Gabinete de la Secretaría Técnica de Planificación
- Sr. Ricardo González, Director General de Gabinete de la Secretaría Nacional de la Niñez y la Adolescencia
- Sra. María José Méndez, Directora General de Derechos Humanos del Ministerio de Justicia
- Sra. Dalila Zarza, Directora General de Planificación del Ministerio de Educación y Culto
- Sr. Víctor Thomas, Director General de Asesoría Jurídica del Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social
- Sra. Nury Montiel, Directora de Derechos Humanos de la Corte Suprema de Justicia
- Sra. Tania Abdo, Asesora de la Comisión de la Cámara de Diputados
- Sra. Belén Morra Alvarenga, Jefa del Departamento de Informes a Órganos de Tratados y Asuntos Políticos del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
- Sr. Andrés Ramírez, Jefe de Departamento de Derechos Humanos de la Corte Suprema de Justicia
- Sra. [illegible]ura Bordón, Jefa de la Unidad de Derechos Humanos del Ministerio de Salud y Bie[illegible]estar Social
- Sra. Verónica López, Jefa del Departamento de Normas Internacionales del Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social
- Sra. Carmen Orlandini, Técnica del Instituto Paraguayo del Indígena
- Sr. Jorge Brizuela, Misión Permanente del Paraguay ante las Naciones Unidas y Organismos Especializados
- Sr. Miguel Candia, Misión Permanente del Paraguay ante las Naciones Unidas y Organismos Especializados

- Oficial Raquel Pereira, Misión Permanente del Paraguay ante las Naciones Unidas y Organismos Especializados
- Sr. Juan Alberto Guzmán, Técnico de la Unidad General de Derechos Humanos del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
- Srta. Ximena Abente, Misión Permanente del Paraguay ante las Naciones Unidas y Organismos Especializados.